IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of the claims.

1. (Currently amended) A method of characterizing a risk of future cerebral vasospasm in a subject suffering from a subarachnoid hemorrhage, comprising:

determining the presence or amount of a plurality of subject-derived markers in a sample obtained from said subject, wherein ~~said plurality of markers are independently selected from the group consisting of specific markers of neural tissue injury, markers related to blood pressure regulation, markers related to inflammation, and markers related to apoptosis, provided that~~ one or more of said subject-derived markers are selected from the group consisting of neural cell adhesion molecule (NCAM), vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), ~~B-type natriuretic peptide (BNP), NT-pro BNP, pro-BNP,~~ matrix metalloprotease-9 (MMP-9), caspase-3, and von Willebrand factor (vWF), or markers related thereto; and

correlating the presence or amount of said plurality of markers to said risk of a future cerebral vasospasm in said subject.

2-4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of subject-derived markers ~~comprise~~ comprises NCAM or a marker related thereto.

6-7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of subject-derived markers ~~comprise~~ comprises caspase-3 or a marker related thereto.

9-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of subject-derived markers ~~comprise~~ comprises VEGF or a marker related thereto.

12-14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of subject-derived markers ~~comprise~~ comprises at least one specific marker of neural tissue injury, at least one marker related to inflammation, and at least one marker related to apoptosis.

16. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of subject-derived markers ~~comprise~~ comprises at least one marker related to blood pressure regulation.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of subject-derived markers ~~comprise~~ comprises VEGF, NCAM, and caspase-3.

19. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the sample is from a human.

20. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the sample is selected from the group consisting of blood, serum, and plasma.

21. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~assay method~~ determining step ~~is~~ uses an immunoassay method.

22. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the correlating step comprises determining the concentration of each of said plurality of subject-derived markers, and individually comparing each marker concentration to a threshold level.

23. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the correlating step comprises determining the concentration of each of said plurality of subject-derived markers, calculating a single index value based on the concentration of each of said plurality of subject-derived markers, and comparing the index value to a threshold level.

24. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the method comprises determining a temporal change in at least one of said subject-derived markers, and wherein said temporal change is used in said correlating step.

25. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of subject-derived markers ~~comprise~~ comprises MMP-9 or a marker related thereto.

26. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of subject-derived markers ~~comprise~~ comprises vWF or a marker related thereto.

27. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein two or more of said subject-derived markers are selected from the group consisting of neural cell adhesion molecule (NCAM), vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), matrix metalloprotease-9 (MMP-9), caspase-3, and von Willebrand factor (vWF), or markers related thereto.

28. (New) A method according to claim 27, wherein three or more of said subject-derived markers are selected from the group consisting of neural cell adhesion molecule (NCAM), vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), matrix metalloprotease-9 (MMP-9), caspase-3, and von Willebrand factor (vWF), or markers related thereto.

29. (New) A method according to claim 28, wherein said plurality of subject-derived markers comprises VEGF, MMP-9, and vWF.